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## **CLAIMS**

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An aqueous liquid composition of matter suitable for treating a metal substrate, either directly or after formation of a chemical plating layer or a phosphate conversion coating layer over said metal substrate, to form over the substrate a corrosion protective layer with excellent adhesion to subsequent paint coatings, said aqueous liquid composition comprising water and the following components:

- (a) from 20 to 70 percent by weight of non-volatile constituents of a component selected from a group consisting of urethane resins, epoxy resins, and acrylic resins;
- (b) from 10 to 60 percent by weight of non-volatile constituents of a component of silane coupling agent; and
  - (c) from 10 to 40 percent by weight of a component of dispersed solid non-volatile particles with a mean particle size of 1.0 µm or less,

all of the percentage values specified above for components (a), (b), and (c) being percentages of only the non-volatiles content of said aqueous liquid composition.

- 2. A liquid composition according to claim 1, wherein component (c) is selected from the group consisting of plastic pigments, phosphorus-containing anti-rust pigments, and colloidal-sized silica (including fumed silica), alumina, zirconia, and titania.
- 3. A liquid composition according to claim 2, in which the pH is in a range from 2 to 10.
- 4. A liquid composition according to claim 1, in which the pH is in a range from 2 to 10.
- 5. A process for making a coated metal substrate, said process comprising operations of:
- (I) forming a layer of a liquid composition according to claim 4 over at least one of a metallic surface of said metal substrate, a surface formed by chemical plating on a metallic surface of said metal substrate, and a phosphate conversion coating formed on a metallic surface of said metal substrate, said layer of said liquid composition having a non-volatiles content that is from 0.05 to 1.0 g/m²; and
  - (II) drying said layer of liquid composition, without removing any of said liquid by any other method than volatilization, to form a dry coating.
  - 6. A process for making a coated metal substrate, said process comprising operations of:

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(I) forming a layer of a liquid composition according to claim 3 over at least one of a metallic surface of said metal substrate, a surface formed by chemical plating on a metallic surface of said metal substrate, and a phosphate conversion coating formed on a metallic surface of said metal substrate, said layer of said liquid composition having a non-volatiles content that is from 0.05 to 1.0 g/m²; and

- (II) drying said layer of liquid composition, without removing any of said liquid by any other method than volatilization, to form a dry coating.
- 7. A process for making a coated metal substrate, said process comprising operations of:
  - (I) forming a layer of a liquid composition according to claim 2 over at least one of a metallic surface of said metal substrate, a surface formed by chemical plating on a metallic surface of said metal substrate, and a phosphate conversion coating formed on a metallic surface of said metal substrate, said layer of said liquid composition having a non-volatiles content that is from 0.05 to 1.0 g/m<sup>2</sup>; and
  - (II) drying said layer of liquid composition, without removing any of said liquid by any other method than volatilization, to form a dry coating.
  - 8. A process for making a coated metal substrate, said process comprising operations of:
  - (I) forming a layer of a liquid composition according to claim 1 over at least one of a metallic surface of said metal substrate, a surface formed by chemical plating on a metallic surface of said metal substrate, and a phosphate conversion coating formed on a metallic surface of said metal substrate, said layer of said liquid composition having a non-volatiles content that is from 0.05 to 1.0 g/m²; and
  - (II) drying said layer of liquid composition, without removing any of said liquid by any other method than volatilization, to form a dry coating.
  - 9. An article of manufacture comprising a coated metal surface formed by a process according to any one of claims 5 through 8.

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